

PRESSING **PAUSE** ON THE JOHNSON & JOHNSON VACCINE

What You Need to Know

WHY DID THEY RECOMMEND A PAUSE?



U.S. health authorities recommended pausing use of the J&J vaccine when six women under 50 developed rare blood clots after receiving the shot. For context, almost 7 million doses have been administered in the U.S. to date.

DOES THAT MEAN THE VACCINE IS UNSAFE?

No. On balance, the vaccine is safe for most people and will not cause any severe adverse events. But a pause and data review will give us accurate information on any possible side effects—even very rare ones.

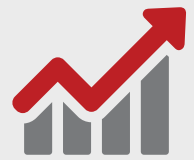


GOOD NEWS: THE SYSTEM IS WORKING

It's important to be responsive to any safety concern. The FDA and CDC have many systems in place to find, report, and investigate any adverse events—even those that could turn out to be unrelated to the vaccines.



WILL THIS AFFECT VACCINE CONFIDENCE?



Short-term, maybe. But this is about long term confidence in the system. We want a system that looks carefully at unusual events; caution and transparency can increase confidence.

MAKES SENSE, SO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

A CDC advisory committee will review cases, and FDA will review the analysis. This could lead to updated vaccination policies, or better guidance for clinicians on treating patient symptoms.



I GOT THE J&J VACCINE, SHOULD I WORRY?



Not unless you experience side effects like severe headaches, abdominal pain, difficulty breathing or swollen legs 1-3 weeks after being vaccinated. If this occurs, contact a medical provider.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO IN THE MEANTIME?

Fortunately, multiple vaccines are authorized for use in the U.S., and all of them are highly efficacious. The system is working; get vaccinated when you can.



Adapted from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

